



TOM MCCALL
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM 97310

July 12, 1972

Mr. Allan Hytowitz
Eugene MELO
Post Office Box 5474
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Dear Allan:

Thank you for your recent letter in which you expressed your views on the legalization of marijuana.

It appears that harsh legal penalties have had little impact on drug-using behavior, particularly in the young. However, there are medical, psychiatric, ethical, economical, and legal factors which must be studied carefully before the major step of legalization of marijuana could be undertaken. The Mental Health Division has recently appointed a Task Force to consider these issues, among others, and to develop recommendations regarding both the legal and illegal use of drugs which affect people's emotions, thought, and behavior.

As with other complicated social problems, we must rely upon the democratic process and the collective wisdom of our courts, legislators, other elected officials, community groups, and concerned citizens if we are to reach a satisfactory, long-term solution.

At the present time, I do not favor legalization of marijuana; but I will continue to study any new developments. You may be assured that no hasty decision will be made regarding its legalization. I do favor decriminalization as opposed to legalization.

I appreciate your concern and thoughtful letter.

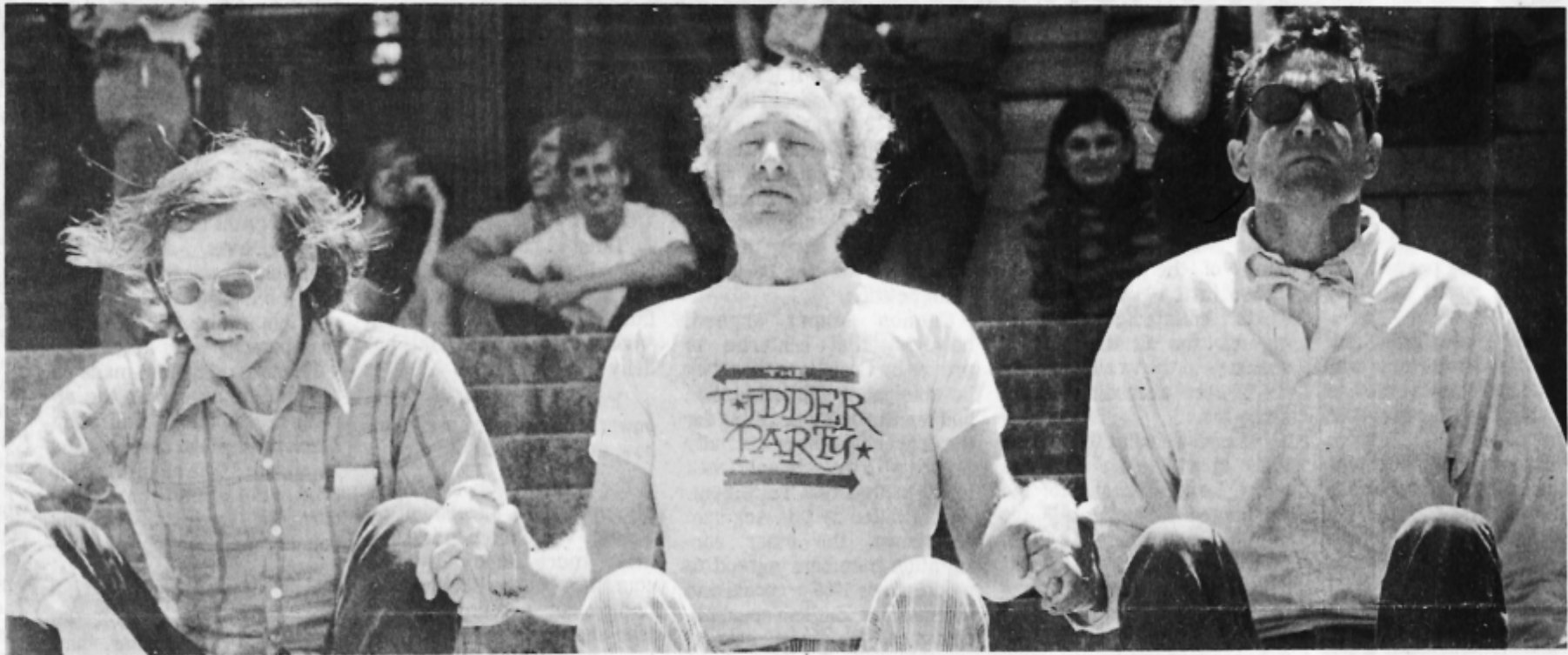
Sincerely,

Governor

TM:da

Drugs

*File unannounced
(none expected)*



Ken Kesey (center) grasps hands to display unity and strength at OSU.

Legalize Dope, Author Urges

By Connie Whitaker
Of The Gazette-Times

The United States needs to legalize marijuana for the sake of "the old folks," Ken Kesey said Friday.

The author of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Sometimes a Great Notion" told Oregon State University students that "old folks" need to slow down and "grass slows us down."

Speaking in support of MELO (Marijuana Education for Legalization in Oregon), Kesey said the older generation moves too quickly and passively. Motorists don't even stop to pick-up hitchhikers or to help drivers with car trouble, he said.

"They (older people) can only deal with others by being drunk or by acting like John Wayne."

Marijuana would help these people out, according to Kesey, because it develops "a creative frame of mind."

Kesey urged student support of MELO, which seeks legalization of marijuana, and a reduction of penalties for its use.

Forty-thousand signatures are needed on petitions circulating throughout the state in order to get the proposal on a referendum in November's general election.

In Corvallis, signatures will be collected at each of the voting precincts during Tuesday's primary election.

Praising marijuana, Kesey said the

weed should not only be legalized but be given away to everyone who wants it.

The reason it costs so much now, the author explained, is because it costs so much to arrest and prosecute drug users. He estimated it takes \$3,000 to convict a person for marijuana usage.

"We can't afford it," Kesey told the students.

Before his OSU appearance, Kesey spoke with Gov. Tom McCall on behalf of MELO.

✗ He said it seemed strange to be talking to the governor about legalizing marijuana and him standing there listening like he might do it.

With a grin, Kesey added, "We were high in the governor's office but he didn't

know it and we didn't let him know it. If you can't smoke a joint before you go to see the governor about a referendum, there's no issue anyway."

Disgusted at what he considers too stiff penalties for drug use, Kesey said a prison sentence is too harsh a punishment.

"I have done time and it's a bummer," he said.

He was arrested twice for possession of marijuana — in April of 1965 and January of 1966.

Kesey said if a person serves long enough, he "comes out crazy." He feels David Harris (husband of Joan Baez who refused military induction) is "mad" as a result of his prison sentence.